

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 29 October 1948

SUBJECT LEK Pharmaceutical and Research Plant,
Ljubljana

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1. LEK's branch factory and bacteriological research laboratory in Velenje (Province of Gorenjska), is headed by Engineer Marjan Skofic, technical management director who lives at 14 Gledaliska Street, Ljubljana. His collaborator is Dr. William (Wilhelm) Koch, an expert in chemical and pharmaceutical experiments.

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2. Koch was born 1905 in Vienna, Austria, son of George Koch who is presently living in Vienna (address unknown) with his daughter-in-law and her children. William Koch studied chemistry at the Vienna and Graz universities; he also studied chemistry for some time in an unspecified university in Italy. He is a member of the Austrian Communist Party and in 1945 was sent to Yugoslavia by the KPO to assist in Yugoslav pharmaceutical research. Koch is known to speak Slovenian, Serbo-Croatian, Italian and a little English.

3. As of date, Koch is experimenting and producing the following:

- a. Extractum Filicis Maris
- b. Extractum Belladone
- c. Extractum Opium

4. Until 12 August 1948 Koch's assistant was a prisoner-of-war (a German or Austrian?) named Adolf Kurt, who escaped from Yugoslavia on 12 August with Koch's diary in his possession. Kurt is presently believed to be in Italian, British or American custody in the Trieste or Gorica territory.

5. On 5 August 1948 a two-hour strike was called at LEK's branch in Ljubljana located at No. 135 Celovska Street, during which automatic tablet-counting machines were burned by a female employee. On 7 August, ten employees of this plant were arrested by UDB but no other reprisals were undertaken because it seemed impossible to replace skilled workers without hampering production of the plant.

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